

IRREPRESSIBLE YOUNGSTER KEEPS UP HOLIDAY RACKET

FIREWORKS AND BONFIRES Throughout Residence Sections Keep City in Uproar.

OTHER CELEBRATIONS QUIET

Many Family Gatherings and Informal At-Homes, Where Young People Assemble—World War Gives Solemnity to Celebration.

Except for innumerable bonfires scattered all over the city and for a veritable inferno of noise made by enthusiastic youths in all the hours of the night, yesterday was the quietest Christmas Richmond has experienced in years.

But the noise of firecrackers and other explosives was terrific, and it was possible to snatch only a few hours of sleep because of the din. In the residential sections there were bonfires on nearly every corner. The boys had not failed to get their barrels and a large supply of wood and kindling, and the bonfire fires started early on Friday night burned brightly, in many instances until late night. The noise of the explosives sounded like a carnival bombardment of a Flemish town. There was no cessation until the supplies became exhausted, and then they were removed and the reckoning went to work with redoubled vigor. The older boys remained up all night, the weather being clear and warm, and when they had had enough and were themselves fatigued with the din they had created, their work was taken up by the younger brood just arisen from a reposing sleep. But for the elders, night it was awful. They saw the pale of day with bloodshot eyes and splitting heads, and those who had whistled away many hours around the fuming bowl found during the day their last state worse than the first. They had no sleep.

NOISE IN CITY IS HEARD FAR IN SUBURBS

The noise in Richmond was heard in Heights Park and in Burton Heights, where the better trained kiddies went to bed early, refraining from the scurrying order of their cousins below the Shockoe Valley.

But, the children aside, the day was very quiet. People went to morning services as usual, for the day was observed in many churches with special music and with sermons dealing on the subject of the Nativity.

There were the usual family gatherings, with the customary turkey and plum pudding. All the students came home from college, and the young son and daughter who is seeking fame and fortune upon some other scene also returned to the family board. The could. And if he couldn't come because of the press of work, his mother remembered Blue with a well-packed basket or box, which, perhaps, as he opened it, was salted with a tear. The homing spirit is strong at the Christmas time.

Also there were many parties in which the lady of the house served eggnog and gave of her bosom's contents to the guests. But, in the main, people preferred to remain at home, fathers and mothers with their children, and children within their own gates.

UNDERCURRENT OF SOLEMNITY PERVades CELEBRATION

It was remarked upon frequently yesterday that there was so little frivolity, that there were so few outward signs of gaiety, that the observance of the day was so sober and solemn. The same spirit was shown on Friday night, when people shunned the streets and gave up the parade used to the occasion.

It may be that the solemn hour through which Europe is passing is having effect even in this country, and that Americans, remembering the cup of sorrow which Europe is drinking, resigned themselves yesterday to contemplation of the world's miseries. There was no merriment yesterday in Belgium, Serbia and Poland, and in England, France, Russia and in Germany, people change little every day. This thought and less going yesterday to church in Richmond and gave had psychological effect in causing a somber atmosphere.

On the other hand, people gave to charity more liberally this year than in many seasons. No call went unanswered. The special appeal made by the Times-Dispatch for the "Five Opportunities" resulted in more contributions than were asked for. The Salvation Army responded to hundreds of calls of need; the Red Cross, our usual share, and all the other agencies of charity were ready to help when one who came to Richmond gave liberally all.

Arrested on ASSAULT Charge.

Shawneetown, Ky., December 25. William S. Morris, together with William Smith, were arrested by Police here yesterday on a charge of assaulting and wounding William McCoy.

Child Struck by Bicycle.

Richmond, Va., December 25. A boy, about three years old, was struck by a bicycle on Main Street, between 10th and West Chester Streets, Saturday afternoon and slightly hurt. She was taken to her home.

Gives Fruit Cakes to Employees.

The firm of A. B. McOy & Co. presented every employee, from the heads of the departments down to the wagon boys, with a large rich fruit cake in pretty wrapping Christmas Eve, just before the store closed. An expression of thanks was drawn and tendered members of the firm.

Attorney-General Going Hunting.

Attorney-General T. W. Gregory, of President Wilson's Cabinet, is expected to arrive here today and to spend several days on the Eastern Shore. Yesterday he will be met by Tom C. Bell of Monroe Terrace, who will accompany him upon the hunting trip. Mr. Bell is an old classmate of Attorney-General Gregory.

Concealed Pistol.

William C. Moses, nineteen years old, was arrested yesterday by Police under Thomas on a charge of carrying a concealed pistol.

Pastor Russell to Speak Here.

The International Bible Students' Association, which has been financing movement to increase individual Bible studies, comes to-day and next Sunday with the exhibition of the photographs of the creation at the New Theatre.

Pastor Russell of the association,

will conduct the closing exercises at the John Marshall High School Auditorium on January 5 at 3 o'clock.

Interfering With Police.

William Henry, colored, was arrested by Police here Allen and Bass yesterday on a charge of interfering with the police in the discharge of their duty.

LEGISLATION HOSTILE TO AMERICAN MEAT

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.—December 25.—Legislation hostile to American meat interests in Queensland is said to be part of the industrial program of the Labor party. That has come into power. A bill is now before the Queensland Parliament giving the government power to appropriate packing plants in the state and extinguish the owners' rights without compensation. There has arisen some suspicion of being in interests concerned in some of the American meat companies operating in Queensland. The Assistant Minister for Justice declared that cargo packages were not only supplying Germany with meat, but had "actually threatened to starve Great Britain if the meat was not permitted to go to Germany."

Private instructions to all the latest Dancer JOHN R. DODDHEAD, East Grace, for apartment 601, 10th and Randolph 6284, residence, Randolph 1442.

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